

Members of the House Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Fish and Game Committee,

I am Rob Arnaud a private land wildlife manager and outfitter. I was educated at Montana State University and currently practice my craft in MT, WY, and CA and have operated in CO, NM and UT.

The goal of private land wildlife management is to manage to abundance so that liberal allocation decisions can be made. Please look at the chart provided and notice the great wildlife success story that can be told by the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and Montana citizens.

Our predecessors started elk management in this state with isolated pockets of elk that they transplanted to several locations in western and central MT. Thirty years later or by 1970, elk had re-colonized on their own to cover approximately 30% of the state.

In 1975 the state legislatures set the non-resident elk hunting opportunity at 17,000 elk /deer combo licenses. The estimated elk population in 1975 was approximately 50,000 head. Elk continued to relocate on their own into their historic habitat. Our distribution maps are dated at 1999, where it shows that 40-50% of the state has been re colonized and the 2011 estimated elk population now numbers 160,000 head. This represents a 320% increase in elk population since 1975! An increase in the asked for elk licenses is < 12% of the current 17,000 elk licenses available to non-residents.

This bill does not disrupt the MDFWP or their commissioner's ability to address localized population fluctuations with changes in methods and means, or seasons and bag limit restrictions.

I urge you to vote DO PASS on SB 400.

Thank you for your consideration,

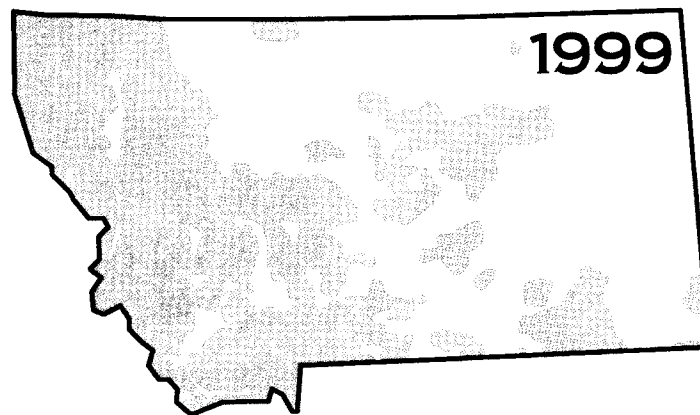
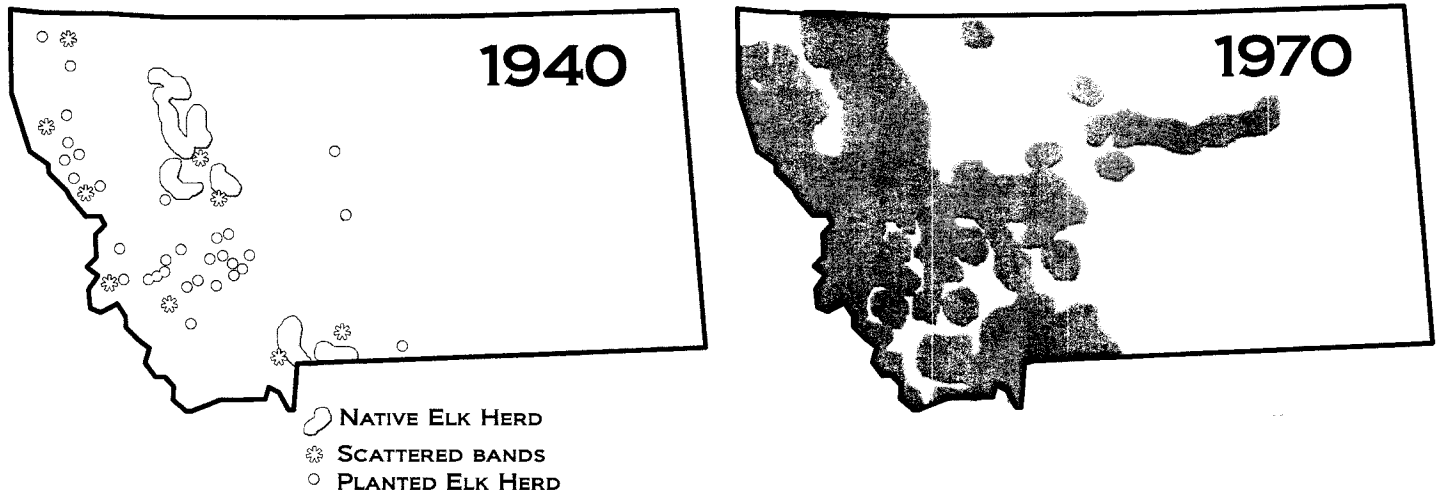
Rob Arnaud

412 Pronghorn Trail, Ste A

Bozeman, MT 59718

406-585-9051

ELK DISTRIBUTION IN MONTANA



INFORMATION SOURCE: MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS WEBSITE

